



United States Department of Agriculture

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)
FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE (FNS)
SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAMS DIVISION (SFPD)**

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MATERNAL,
INFANT AND FETAL NUTRITION
JULY 12 -14, 2016
MEETING MINUTES**

The National Advisory Council on Maternal, Infant and Fetal Nutrition (Council) met at the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Shirlington, Environment Room, 4271 Campbell Avenue, Arlington, Virginia, on July 12-14, 2016. This public meeting, announced in the Federal Register on June 10, 2016, was called to order by Sarah Widor, Director, Supplemental Food Programs Division (SFPD), Food and Nutrition Services (FNS). The agenda for the meeting is attached.

Council Members in attendance include: Chairperson Ann Kellams, Vice Chairperson Christopher Bendekgey, Grace Chang, Steven Foley, Veronica Gillispie, Terry Bryce, Christine Dolan, Krista Garofalo, Bethany Griffin-Shetler, Virginia Fragoso, Michelle Lawler, and Sarah Widor.

Tuesday, July 12, 2016

Welcome/Opening Remarks/Introductions/Overview of the Meeting

Ms. Sarah Widor welcomed members and opened the meeting by introducing herself, recognizing Council Chairperson Ann Kellams and Vice Chairperson Christopher Bendekgey. Council members were asked to introduce themselves and mention their affiliations.

Ms. Widor welcomed everyone, thanked the Council members for their service and spoke about the important role of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Ms. Widor then turned the Meeting over to Council Chairperson Ann Kellams.

Ms. Kellams advised the Council Members about their roles on the Council and reviewed the meeting agenda.

From the Dietary Guidelines to Everyday Inspiration

Ms. Angie Tagtow, Executive Director, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP) provided a presentation on the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion. The mission of CNPP is to improve the health of Americans by developing and promoting dietary guidance that links scientific research to the nutrition needs of consumers. Ms. Tagtow spoke about the major projects in CNPP.

Ms. Tagtow discussed the 2010 *Dietary Guidelines for Americans (DGA)*. Americans as a whole are not eating healthfully. With these diet-related health problems persisting at high levels, trends in food intake over time show that, at the population level, Americans are not consuming healthy eating patterns. The prevalence of overweight and obesity has risen and remained high for the past 25 years. The typical eating patterns currently consumed by many in the United States do not align with the *Dietary Guidelines*.

Ms. Tagtow explained the process of developing the 2015-2020 *DGA* and the key recommendations. USDA and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services initiated a project to develop evidence-based dietary recommendations for infants and toddlers. After the first phase of the project was completed, the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79), also known as the Farm Bill, officially called for the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* to expand to include infants and toddlers (from birth to age 2), as well as women who are pregnant, beginning with the 2020 edition.

Ms. Tagtow introduced the My Plate, MyWins Campaign which embodies the key components of a healthy eating pattern and shows how those components can come together.

WIC Program Update

Ms. Widor shared the Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services Vision: To end hunger and improve nutrition in America. The FNS Mission: We work with partners to provide food and nutrition education to people in need in a way that inspires public confidence and supports American agriculture. FNS Core Values: Respect for all, Integrity first, Service to America, Excellence in all we do (RISE).

Ms. Widor provided updates on agency strategic goals and priorities. WIC's work directly supports three of the agency's five goals:

- Goal 1: Help America Eat Smart and Maintain a Healthy Weight – This includes work in nutrition education and breastfeeding, promotion and support.
- Goal 2: Preserve the Public Trust – This includes ensuring compliance with federal requirements and program integrity efforts, particularly Management Evaluation reviews and WIC EBT implementation.

- Goal 4: Reduce Food Insecurity – This includes our work toward increasing child retention, such as working with partners and stakeholders and developing research-based strategies.

Ms. Widor provided a general WIC program update and explained that the Council would be provided with updates over the next few days from program staff that would include information about the *Actions Taken* on the 2015 Council recommendations for both WIC and CSFP.

WIC Funding Update

Mr. Hayes Brown, Chief, Funding, Reporting & Analysis Branch provided an update on WIC funding. Mr. Brown explained the Federal WIC funding process. Mr. Brown further discussed the funding formulas used for providing State agencies with both Food funds and Nutrition Services and Administration funds. Mr. Brown announced that the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Appropriation was \$6,350,000,000. Mr. Brown highlighted the average monthly participation rates for FY 2015 (8,023,743) and FY 2016 (7,832,434 for October-June) and food package costs. Mr. Brown reviewed the President's FY 2017 WIC Budget Request for WIC funding.

National Studies and Initiatives Update

Ms. Margaret Applebaum, Branch Chief, Special Nutrition Analysis Branch, Special Nutrition Research and Analysis Division, Office of Policy Support (OPS), introduced Dr. Kelley Scanlon, the new Director, Special Nutrition Research and Analysis Division. Ms. Applebaum presented the key research focus areas for FNS including: nutrition and breastfeeding, health impacts, program management and costs, and program integrity. Ms. Applebaum presented highlights from the three recently released studies: WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2014: Food Package Report; WIC Nutrition Education Study: Phase 1 Report; and WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Study.

Ms. Danielle Berman, Branch Chief, Special Nutrition Evaluation Branch, Special Nutrition Research and Analysis Division, OPS, spoke about ongoing studies including: ITFPS – Infant report; WIC Nutrition Education Study: Phase II; National Academy of Medicine Food Package Review; National Survey of WIC Participants – III; Risk Reduction Study (Peer Grouping); and WIC Vendor Management Report: EBT Option.

Wednesday, July 13, 2016

WIC Policy Update

Ms. Kurtria Watson, Chief, Policy Branch provided an update on: Upcoming Policy Guidance; Certification/Eligibility Management Evaluations; 2015 WIC Special Project Grants; Nutrition Risk Revisions; Child Retention; Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment; State Plans; and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.

Program Integrity Update

Ms. Amy Herring, Chief, Program Integrity & Monitoring Branch provided an update on WIC Program Integrity. Ms. Herring presented information about the Office of Inspector General 2013 Vendor Management Audit; the U.S. Government Accountability Office 2013 Income Eligibility Survey; and the GAO 2014 Online Sale of Infant Formula Report.

Ms. Herring reviewed the purpose of the Program Integrity & Monitoring Branch, and its current focus on vendor management and participant fraud studies.

CSFP Update

Ms. Polly Fairfield, Program Analyst, FNS Food Distribution Division provided an update on CSFP. Ms. Fairfield discussed the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016, which provided \$222.198 million for CSFP for FY 2016. The 2016 National Caseload is 619,000 and the Administrative Grant per Caseload Slot is \$74.53. Virginia CSFP was added to the program this year. The FY 2017 Budget requests \$236.120 million to support a 20,000 slot caseload increase. Ms. Fairfield stated that CSFP now operates in 47 States, 2 Indian Tribal Organizations, and the District of Columbia. Ms. Fairfield discussed the “Changes to the Requirements for the Distribution and Control of Donated Foods and the Emergency Food Assistance Program: Implementation of the Agricultural Act of 2014” published April 19, 2016 and the Final Rule Implementing Executive Order 13559, issued April 4, 2016.

Nutrition Services Update

Ms. Anne Bartholomew, Chief, Nutrition Services Branch provided an update on nutrition service activities. Ms. Bartholomew discussed the progress of the grant to comprehensively update the *Loving Support* campaign. Ms. Bartholomew presented the four goals of the new grant to update and develop WIC breastfeeding and training curricula for various levels of WIC staff.

Ms. Bartholomew also provided an update on the Institute of Medicine food package review, and the update to the staff resource, “*Infant Nutrition and Feeding: A Guide for in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children*.”

WIC Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) Update

Ms. Jerilyn Malliet, Chief, WIC EBT Branch provided an update on the status of WIC EBT and technology. As of July 2016, 20 State agencies have statewide EBT; 40 State agencies are in Implementation; 4 States are in pilot/rollout and will be statewide this year; and 26 State agencies are in various stages of planning for EBT.

Ms. Malliet discussed the FY 2016 funding available for technology projects. Ms. Malliet spoke about the March 1, 2016, publication of the EBT Final Rule.

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Logistics & Wrap-up

Ms. Widor introduced Ms. Diane Kriviski, Deputy Administrator for the Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Program (SNAS). Ms. Kriviski discussed Agency priority planning and then awarded Certificates of Appreciation to Council Members whose terms will be ending September 30, 2016.

Ms. Widor thanked the Council for a very productive meeting.

Adjournment

Ms. Widor and Ms. Kellams adjourned the meeting.

10/27/2016